

Aeroplanes

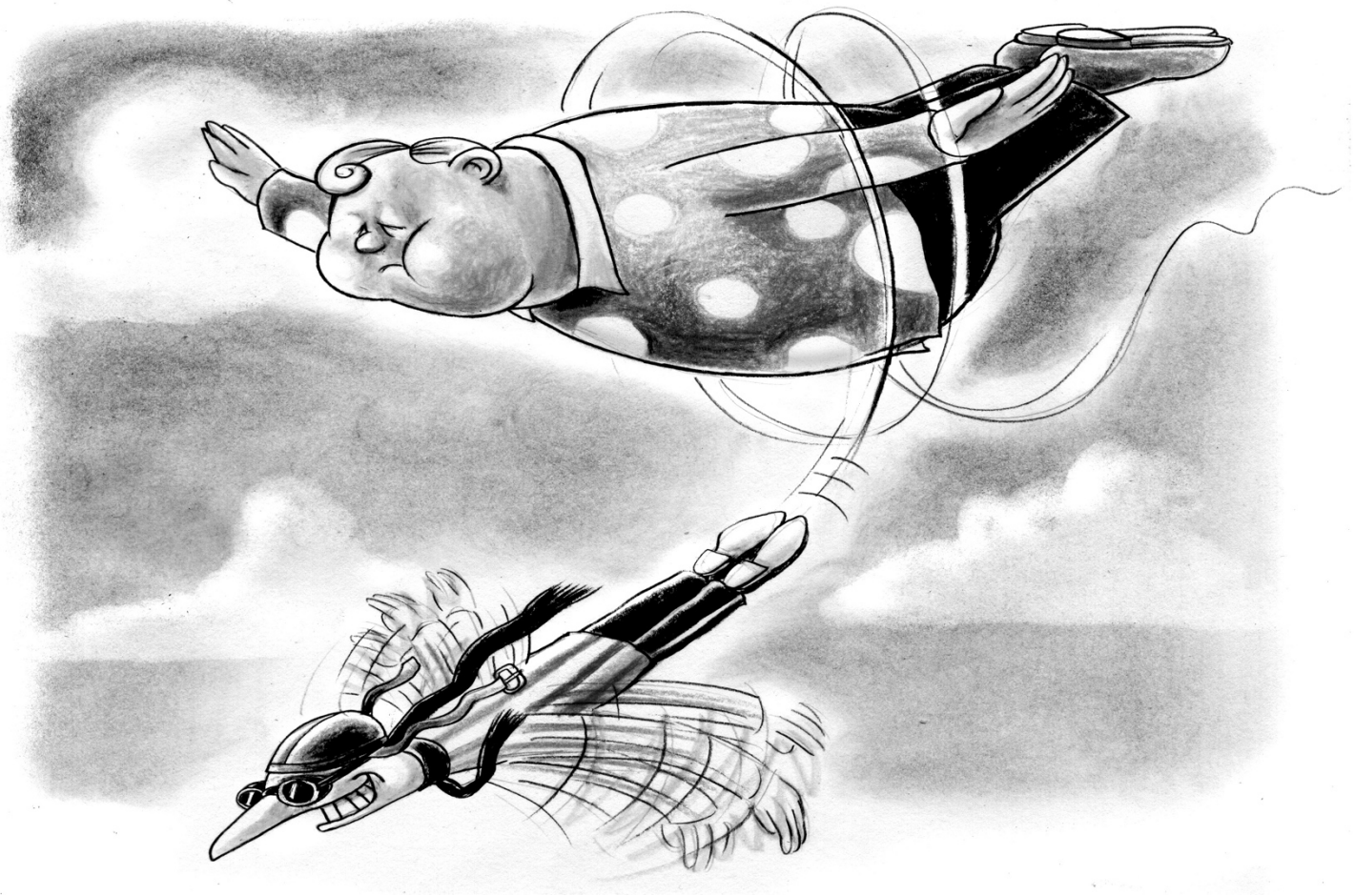
Music	Rob van den Berg
Dance	Maria Speth
Time	4/4
Intro	2 bars
Formation	open space
Target group	suggested 4 – 10 years; Flight Attendant Dance: 6-12 years

Background Information

- Each pupil stands with their airplane at their own airport. They may take turns flying, but there is only enough fuel for one flight. Then you need to land at a different airport that... is just big enough for one airplane, thus the plane that was there needs to take off, etc.
- The music for this dance is very important. Allow the pupils to first listen to the music, so that it becomes familiar (two times 8 bars) in order to be able to land in time at another airport. You may wish to indicate the moment of exchange (landing and taking off) with a clap.

Dance tips and other tips

- Allow the pupils to hop through the room and stop on the last count. You can also set half of the group on one side and ask them to clap the last count of the last bar, the other pupils can react to this by closing with a 2-foot jump. Guide the stops in the beginning with a text or with your own clapping.
- When the airplane lands the pupil must sit down allowing the rest to see who has had a turn and who still needs to go. The first few planes have it relatively easy, there are so many airports to choose from. But when there are less and less possibilities the pilots will need to adjust their timing to land at an airport within the count.
- The manner in which an airplane lands may also require consideration. Inform the pupils that they must not slide into grounded planes. Slamming down on their knees is another way to damage the landing equipment of the airplane!
- As the pupils get more familiar with the music, you may place more attention on the technique and variation in flying. There are hop-a-long aeroplanes, but also old jalopy planes, or heavy transport planes that wobble back and forth under the great weight they carry. Encourage the pupils to limp, flap, turn, crawl, zigzag, etc. Everything (well?!) is possible, but continue to attend to the rhythm and the tempo of the music.
- Other possibilities are airplanes flying in formation of 2 or 3.
- This dance is also good for the youngest toddlers. All pupils are scattered around the room. The teacher always takes another pupil by the hand and together they dance to the next airport, there the teacher takes the next pupil, etc. After a while, the pupils can also decide for themselves how they want to dance through the hall.



Dance Structure

Bars

Intro

1 – 4 the pupils stand ready

A

1 – 8 one pupil dances as an aeroplane through the room and lands
with the last count at another airport

B

1 – 8 same as A

The music is repeated 5 times and concludes with an A-section. Therefore 11 pupils may fly per turn.

Tips

The F-16 is not able to complete short flights in a densely populated air space. Thus, no running!

EXTRA:

the Flight Attendant Dance a hit, especially the older students and nice to do as a teaser in the classroom:

- Who has ever been on an airplane? Nowadays you can easily have a class full of experts by experience. Introduce the image of the flight attendant who does a strange kind of 'hand dance' just before take-off. Pause here and take a look around and guaranteed someone will come up with a move! Based on the ideas of the pupils you can work out a series of movements in which it is important that you keep the movements short and simple. 4 Movements are usually sufficient for a series: for example, *indicate the emergency exits, fasten the seat belt, put on the mouth cap (first on yourself and then on someone else!), straighten the life jacket etc...* Each movement lasts 2 bars and with 4 different movements in total you have a phrase of 8 bars.
- Automate these by going through the moves over and over with the pupils while adding new ones (stack and repeat).
- When you start to use the music, it is nice for the very young pupils that you continue to participate. You can challenge the older pupils to execute the movements by themselves and with assignments such as "all girls, or everyone with jeans on, or everyone with long hair, etc" you can also have the group move alternately. Concentration all over!
- Of course, you can come up with countless new movement sequences in this way.
- Packing a suitcase, swimming lessons, on holiday at the beach, Christmas or camping, different professions, etc.